

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL **CONFIDENTIAL**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland
 SUBJECT Economic - Consumers' goods, services
 HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical; daily, weekly, and semiweekly newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED Warsaw; Katowice
 DATE PUBLISHED Dec 1949 - 12 Feb 1950
 LANGUAGE Polish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949 - 1950
 DATE DIST. 4 May 1950
 NO. OF PAGES 3
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 80 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

TEXTILE RETAIL TRADE EXPANDS

601 TEXTILE STORES OPERATING -- Wolne Narody, No 12, Dec 49

The textile market is almost normal with regard to the supply of textile products to consumers as a result of the expansion of the Central Textile Office's retail network. In Lodz, at present, there are 47 stores, including the House of Textiles, the largest in Poland, and two large specialty stores, one located on Koscielna Street and the other on Ogrodowa Street. In Slask-Dabrowa Wojewodztwo, there were 85 stores operating as of 1 October 1949 (1949 plan calls for 90); Dolny Slask, 54 stores (1949 plan - 54); Poznan Wojewodztwo, 60 stores (1949 plan - 40); Kielce Wojewodztwo, 41 stores (1949 plan - 39); and Szczecin Wojewodztwo, 20 stores (1949 plan - 18).

Agricultural areas, too, are getting more textile retail stores. Rzeszow Wojewodztwo had 34 stores as of 1 October 1949 while the plan called for only 30.

In the entire country, there were 103 Central Textile stores at the beginning of 1949. The 1949 plan anticipated an increase of the retail store network to 350. By 1 October 1949, there were 601 stores operating. Lines in front of Central Textile stores at present are very rare. This is due to the fact that the stores are well stocked and preseasonal selling is cut to a minimum to prevent traders from purchasing goods for speculation.

PLAN MORE METAL PRODUCTS IN 1950 -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 43, 12 Feb 50

The 1950 plan of the CHPM (Central Sales Office of the Metal Industry) expects to satisfy the greater part of the demand for the metal products. The network of retail stores will be increased by 43 percent in 1950. The CHPM plan foresees the organization of steel-furniture stores, precision and optical goods stores, and hardware stores carrying tools and plumbing supplies. The sale of metal products will be made by Municipal Retail Trade stores.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL		DISTRIBUTION							
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB							
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI							

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The supply of agricultural machinery will increase substantially during 1950. The sale of Polish-made harvesters and beet diggers will increase threefold. Villages will receive new types of agricultural machinery.

The supply of enamelware will increase by 20 percent over 1949, aluminum utensils 68 percent, building fixtures 55 percent, radiators for central heating 117 percent, baby carriages 210 percent, nails 17 percent, and safety razor blades 430 percent.

REPORTS SHORTAGE OF ENAMELWARE -- Rzeczpospolita, No 29, 29 Jan 50

The Chief Office of Trade of the Metal Industry attributes the present shortage of certain enameled, aluminum, and galvanized products in Poland to increased prosperity and increasing demand of the rural population for such items.

Prewar per-capita consumption of enamelware was about 0.25 kilogram. The present per-capita consumption is 0.40 kilogram. The demand for cast-iron products has gradually declined during this period.

The metal industry has increased production, but can only satisfy demand 80 percent at present.

SCORES SHORTCOMINGS OF SOCIALIZED TRADE -- Zwiazkowiec, No 6, 5 Feb 50

The basic task of socialized trade is to supply the working masses with necessary goods. Unfortunately, warehouses and cooperatives sometimes fail to order supplies in time, or the central marketing offices hold up deliveries of goods ordered. In many instances transportation service is inadequate.

Supply difficulties often arise as the result of speculation. Speculators have been endeavoring to disorganize the supply of the working masses and to undermine their confidence in socialized cooperative trade. There have been rumors of shortages and an exchange of currency.

Trade unions have not offered any resistance to speculation. Members delegated to public price control commissions do not wish to participate in the investigation of stores, and in some instances have cooperated with speculators.

The state and socialized distribution apparatus does not operate satisfactorily to defeat speculation. It is the duty of each member of this organization to keep the goods from falling into the hands of speculators or hoarders. The fact that some workers in socialized trade indulge in speculation indicates lack of supervision by the Trade Union of Office and Sales Clerks, and the Cooperative Trade Union.

It is necessary to activate the wojewodztwo, powiat, and local commissions which watch over the execution of the plans of commodity distribution. The Regional Council of Trade Unions must recall members from commissions when they do not show sufficient initiative, and replace them with union activists.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

It is also the trade unions' duty to arrange frequent meetings of consumers and representatives of the trade establishments so that these representatives may become more familiar with the requirements of the working class. Work competition among workers of socialized trade will also improve work discipline and improve customer service.

More severe penalties must be imposed on speculators and those union members who in any way cooperate with them.

NEW RADIO LICENSE FEES -- Gazeta Handlowa, No 10, 4 Feb 50

New license fees on radios became effective 1 January 1950. The rate for the working class is 250 zlotys for the use of a tube radio. The working class includes employees of state and local governments, cooperatives, and public institutions, employees whose only source of income is from their jobs, farmers, military in active service, pensioners, students, and unemployed registered in employment offices. Such persons are not eligible for the reduced rate if they are required to pay a turnover tax or live with a person who pays this tax. Handicraft workshop owners not employing others pay the reduced subscription rate. The rate also applies to all socialized institutions and to workers' cafeterias and recreation rooms in private industry.

Other subscribers pay 750 zlotys for radios in private homes and 1,000 zlotys for radios in commercial places. Subscription rates on other equipment such as crystal sets, public-address relay stations, and loudspeakers is 80 zlotys. The rate on loudspeakers over 0.5 watt is 500 zlotys. War and military casualties and blind persons are exempt from the fees, provided they have no source of income other than their subsistence.

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL